

# OUR HERITAGE



N. J. STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS  
INCORPORATED

*Affiliated with the*  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED WOMEN

*Price 50¢*

Caroline & William

Est. Moose Lake New York

NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION

— OF —

COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS

1915 - 1957

Organized October, 1915

Incorporated January, 1925



## Our Heritage

*"Work And Serve The Hour"*

*"Lift As We Climb"*

- EMPLOYMENT
- HOUSING
- HEALTH
- EDUCATION
- LEGISLATION



### AFFILIATIONS:

National Association of Colored Women, 1918  
Northeastern Federation of Colored Women, 1922  
National Council of Women of the United States  
International Council of Women

## FOREWORD

Much invaluable information about the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs is now confirmable by living memory which, within a few years, will be beyond reach of consultation. This is the opportune time to collect and collate all factual information available. It will be of incalculable value in the years to come as a historic record of the efforts and achievements of the founders of the Federation.

Mrs. Henry S. Palmer, better known as Mrs. Irene G. Palmer, realized the importance of having a historical record of the beginning of the organization and undertook the work of compiling available data into a brochure as a personal project. Mrs. Palmer is a former treasurer of the Federation. She was a member of the New Jersey Urban League board for a number of years, was a member of the Orange Civil Rights Commission and also served on the board of the League of Women Voters of New Jersey. Before her marriage to Doctor Henry S. Palmer of Newark, she was a Y.W.C.A. Secretary under the War Work Council of the National Y.W.C.A. Board.

*Funds from the sale of this brochure are to  
be used for printing further historical data.*

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Not only acknowledgement but special mention is due to those who assisted in the preparation of this brochure.

The state president, Mrs. Omega V. Mason, and past presidents Mrs. Armita H. Douglas and Mrs. Maggie C. Beckett served as an invaluable advisory committee. Regional presidents furnished information on the work of the clubs in their respective areas.

Mrs. Minnie Carpenter, a charter member of the Federation, Mrs. J. Francis Johnson, daughter of our revered founder, the Reverend Florence Randolph, D.D., and Mrs. Anna Monroe furnished factual information. Their cooperation is sincerely appreciated.

Special thanks are due Miss Katherine E. Bell, a teacher at West Side High School, Newark, for her timely advice and editing suggestions.

Orange, N. J.  
1957

IRENE G. PALMER  
(Mrs. Henry S. Palmer)

PRESIDENTS OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION  
— OF —  
COLORED WOMEN'S CLUB



*HONORARY PRESIDENT*

\*REV. FLORENCE RANDOLPH, D. D. . . . . 1915 - 1927



*PAST PRESIDENTS*

MRS. GEORGE A. DOUGLAS . . . . . 1927 - 1933  
\*MRS. WILLIAM R. VALENTINE . . . . . 1933 - 1937  
MRS. ALICE B. ARRINGTON . . . . . 1937 - 1938  
\*MRS. IDA E. BROWN . . . . . 1938 - 1939  
MRS. ALVIN S. MASON . . . . . 1939 - 1943  
MRS. JAMES H. BECKETT . . . . . 1943 - 1947  
MRS. RUSSEL C. CAUTION . . . . . 1947 - 1951  
MRS. LENORA B. WILLETT . . . . . 1951 - 1953  
MRS. ALVIN S. MASON . . . . . 1953 - 1957

\* Deceased



*EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMEN*

(July, 1917 -- July, 1957)

\*MRS. MUSETTE B. GREGORY  
\*MRS. ESTELLE WRIGHT  
MRS. ARMITA H. DOUGLAS  
\*MRS. MARY E. BURRELL  
\*MRS. M. A. R. CAMPHOR  
MRS. OMEGA V. MASON  
MRS. MARGARET L. CAUTION  
MRS. MILDRED TAYLOR

## ORIGIN

"FOR THEY CONQUER WHO BELIEVE THEY CAN" — *Virgil*



The New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was the outgrowth of a conference of colored women representing thirty societies of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of New Jersey. The call was issued by the late Reverend Florence Randolph and was held October 29, 1915 in St. Paul's A. M. E. Zion Church, Trenton, the object being to consider plans for arousing greater interest in the Temperance movement among colored people of New Jersey. "The various presidents of the different societies spoke on 'The Necessity Of Organization' ". Among them were Mrs. Fannie L. J. Brown, Morristown; Mrs. Ida Brown, Jersey City; Mrs. A. W. Blackwell, Newark; Mrs. Gertrude Cannon, Cranford; Mrs. Ida Hart, Paterson; Mrs. Holden, Rahway; Mrs. Hutton, Burlington; Mrs. Johnson, Newark; Mrs. Johnson, Bridgeton; Mrs. Rebecca (Prout) Lassiter, Moorestown; Mrs. S. J. Luck, Trenton; Mrs. J. Montez, Atlantic City; Mrs. Rice, New Brunswick; Mrs. B. Saxton, Bridgeton and Mrs. Van Pelt, Englewood.

After due consideration "An organization was effected to be known as the NEW JERSEY STATE FEDERATION OF COLORED WOMEN'S CLUBS." Others listed on the program of this momentous session of the Women's Christian Temperance Union were Mrs. Bundy, Trenton; Mrs. Clements, Englewood; Mrs. M. A. Wiley, Trenton; Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas and Mrs. Minnie Carpenter, Jersey City. Mrs. Carpenter acted as secretary.

The highlights of the closing session were the address by Mrs. M. C. Lawton, Brooklyn, N. Y., and the inspiring oration by the Reverend Doctor Solomon P. Hood of Trenton on "The Power of Organization".

The following officers were elected:

<i>President</i> .....	Rev. Florence Randolph
<i>First Vice President</i> .....	Mrs. Ida Hart, Paterson
<i>Second Vice President</i> .....	Mrs. J. Montez, Atlantic City
<i>Third Vice President</i> .....	Mrs. Gertrude Cannon, Cranford
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. C. E. Langford, Atlantic City
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. Bessie Randloph, Englewood
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Mrs. Ella Rice, New Brunswick
<i>Chaplain</i> .....	Mrs. Rebecca (Prout) Lassiter, Moorestown

*Organizers:* Mrs. Ida Brown, Jersey City  
Mrs. Anna Harper, Jersey City  
Mrs. L. C. Woodson, Newark  
Mrs. Anderson, Paterson  
Mrs. Saxton, Bridgeton

*Juvenile Department:* Mrs. Hattie Williams, Bayonne

*Press:* Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, Jersey City

The conference adjourned to meet the next year in Englewood.



July 28, 1916 marked the first convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. It was held in the First Baptist Church, Englewood, with the president, Reverend Florence Randolph, presiding.

The women of this newly formed organization had not been idle through the interim preceding this first annual meeting. "Ninety letters had been sent out over the state" acquainting the public with the aims and ideals of this new women's organization, extending cordial invitations to all clubs and groups of women working together in the interest of church, civic betterment and education to join with them in their crusade for advanced womanhood. Mrs. Ida Brown, one of the elected organizers, reported visiting thirty clubs. Seven new clubs joined the Federation. The Credential committee reported thirty clubs and two Young People's Societies registered.

#### THE THEME WAS "TEMPERANCE AND WOMEN SUFFRAGE"

A number of familiar and revered names appeared at this first convention. Among them were Mrs. Musette B. Gregory, Newark; Mrs. Grace B. Valentine, Bordentown Manual Training School; Mesdames Mary Williams, Mary Goodwin and James E. Churchman of Orange; Mrs. Ella Barksdale Brown, Jersey City and Mrs. Hudspeth, East Orange.

The first Resolutions committee appointed was composed of Mesdames Elizabeth Thomas, Gertrude Cannon, J. D. Virgil and Mrs. Hudspeth. A Constitution committee was named. It included Mrs. Mary Williams, Orange, working with Mrs. Ida Hart, Paterson; Mrs. Ida Brown, Jersey City and Mrs. James E. Churchman, Orange.

Among the visitors were Mrs. Mary B. Talbert of Buffalo, N. Y., Vice President of the National Association of Colored Women, and Miss Lillian Jones Brown, National President of the Juvenile Department of



the N. A. C. W.; Mrs. M. C. Lawton, Brooklyn, N. Y. President of the Empire State Federation; Dr. Mary Waring, Chicago, Illinois, member of the Executive Board of the N. A. C. W.; the well-known Madam J. C. Walker of New York City; Mrs. Henrietta Peters, Cambridge, Massachusetts, missionary to Keta, Gold Coast, West Africa (Now Ghana) and Roy Nash of the N. A. A. C. P. who presented the aims and achievements of that association. Thirty-five dollars was presented to Mr. Nash for the Anti-Lynching fund. A contribution was also made to the Good Samaritan Orphan Home of Newark.

It was decided at this convention that the Federation "adopt a worthy girl from the Gold Coast, West Africa, to educate". Mrs. Peters, missionary was asked to recommend a candidate. She suggested Charity K. Zormelo of Keta, West Africa. Charity came to this country as a ward of the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She was educated by the Federation through primary, high school and college. Upon her return to Africa, she became head mistress of the New Africa University College at Anloga, Keta, West Africa. She later married the president of the college, Mr. Faiwoo, BSC and died October 14, 1945.

Mrs. Ella Barksdale Brown, Jersey City, was elected Second Vice President; Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, Corresponding Secretary and Mrs. Mary Goodwin, Orange, chairman of Women Suffrage.

The convention adjourned to meet in Plainfield in 1917.



The Second Annual Convention was held July 26 and 27, 1917, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Plainfield. The organization was growing rapidly and more familiar names appeared upon the roster. This was truly an inspiring session. Among the subjects discussed was "The Press" by Mrs. Ella Barksdale Brown, Jersey City. The minutes record "the subject was skillfully handled, inspiring and practical". Under the topic "Race History" three speakers were grouped: Mrs. R. D. Brown, Newark, "Phillis Wheatley and Her Work"; Mrs. Armita H. Douglas, Newark, "The Value of Race History to Instill Race Pride" and "A Hymn to Humanity" by Phillis Wheatley, read by Mrs. P. L. Baxter, Newark, who also gave a selection from the "Merchant of Venice". Miss Eva D. Bowles of the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. spoke on the "Conservation of Negro Womanhood". Mrs. Grace B. Valentine, chairman of Education, urged "club women to get in closer touch with public schools, that of a population of 100,000 colored people in New Jersey, but 9,681 colored children are in school with about 5,000 children of school age to be ac-

counted for". Mrs. Mary B. Talbert, now president of the National Association of Colored Women, brought greetings from that organization. Among other prominent guests were Mrs. Lillian Feikert, president of the New Jersey Suffrage Association; Miss Brenda Moryck, Newark; Mrs. John N. Francis, ex-trustee of Washington, D. C. Board of Education; Mrs. Carrie Clifford, president of Ohio State Federation and Mrs. Mazie Griffin, Philadelphia. Additional speakers were Miss Helen Pendleton, supervisor, Bureau of Associated Charities, Newark, whose subject was "The Migrant"; Miss Grace Campbell, New York, superintendent, Empire Friendly Shelter, "Delinquent Girls"; Mrs. Addie Hunton, Brooklyn, N. Y., president, Equal Suffrage League, "Colored Women At Work In The United States". Miss Elizabeth Carter, president of the Northwestern Federation, was guest speaker at the closing session. She spoke of the work of the women of the federated clubs from a national level and told of the touching experiences of the National President, Mrs. Mary B. Talbert, who made a recent tour of the South and found appalling conditions in many reformatory institutions and juvenile courts.

A glowing tribute was paid Miss Violet Johnson, Summit, at the morning session, July 27th viz: "Few women have to their credit the making of a town, but Summit is about what Miss Violet Johnson willed it. A genius for organization, religious, civic, social and industrial institutions flourished at her touch".

The Nominating Committee reported the following elected officers:

<i>President</i> .....	Reverend Florence Randolph
<i>First Vice President</i> .....	Mrs. Ida Hart, Paterson
<i>Second Vice President</i> .....	Mrs. Gertrude Cannon, Cranford
<i>Third Vice President</i> .....	Mrs. E. Palmer Berry, Jersey City
<i>Recording Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. Anna L. Anderson, Atlantic City
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. Bessie Randolph, Englewood
<i>Financial Secretary</i> .....	Mrs. J. D. Virgil, Westfield
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Mrs. Ella Rice, New Brunswick
<i>Chairman, Executive Board</i> .....	Mrs. Musette B. Gregory, Newark
<i>Chaplain</i> .....	Mrs. Helen Webb, Camden

Chairmen were named for nineteen departments and nineteen new clubs were reported. Mrs. Mary Goodwin, East Orange, was elected delegate to the 11th Biennial Convention of the National Association of Colored Women to be held in Denver, Colorado, July 9th to 13th, 1918. Contributions: \$26.00 to the N.A.A.C.P. and \$25.25 to the Good Samaritan Orphanage, Newark.

The convention was adjourned to meet at Ironsides Industrial School, Bordentown, in 1918.

The third annual meeting of the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was held Thursday and Friday, July 25 and 26, 1918, at Ironsides Industrial School, Bordentown. It was a memorable meeting. The organizer, Mrs. Ida I. Brown, reported eighty-five clubs with a combined membership of 2,616. At the close of the convention ninety-two clubs had been enrolled.

Mrs. Grace B. Valentine, convention chairman, reported that the Convention Committee had prepared a program of wide scope and interest.

The Sunday School department, Mrs. Fannie L. J. Brown, chairman, presented a dramatization of the objects and aims of the department, viz: Mrs. Esther A. Yates demonstrated "Sower, Seed and Soil" illustrating the story as it should be presented to the child. Mrs. Sarah I. Collins, Trenton, spoke on "Equipment and Its Value", Mrs. Sadie Ellsworth, Newark, told a Bible story illustrating the value of story-telling in the Primary Department. Mrs. C. A. Smith demonstrated the value and necessity of teacher training for Sunday schools. The round table closed with the reading of an original poem by Miss Esther Yates, Moorestown, who is the author of the Federation Song introduced and adopted at this convention. Greetings were received from Mrs. Booker T. Washington and a letter was read from Mrs. Schermahorn, president of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. H. Amerson of the State Educational Department spoke on the advantages offered by the State Board of Education suggesting the organization of parent and teacher leagues and urging parents to visit the schools more often and cooperate with teachers in helping the children to become good useful citizens.

Mrs. R. D. Brown, Newark, chairman of the department of Race History, presented Mrs. Emma Wormley, Newark, who gave a brief history of the Honorable Frederick Douglass. Mrs. S. I. Collins, Trenton, followed with a paper on "The Mother and Wife of Douglass". Mrs. Armita H. Douglas, Newark, chairman of Civics, urged the beautifying of our homes with gardens -- either flowers or vegetables -- and presented Mrs. Thompson of Orange, who talked on war gardens and her own efforts in encouraging them.

Among the distinguished guests presented were Mrs. Alice Dunbar Nelson from the Women's Council of National Defense and Mrs. Layton, president of the Pennsylvania Federation, who brought a message of good will admonishing, "let the cause of free people go on and not under".

The Reverend Doctor Corrothers was introduced and made a few remarks ending with the challenge "The salvation of the race is largely in the hands of the women."

Doctor A. Clayton Powell, Sr. of New York City, spoke on "Negro Patriotism" and Reverend William Byrd of Jersey City on "Anti-lynching". A motion was made and carried that a letter be sent to the President of the United States protesting lynching.

Mrs. Musette B. Gregory, chairman, reported four meetings of the Executive Board at which matters referred to it by the Convention and other necessary business had been transacted.

The convention ended upon a high note of appeal from Doctor Jamison of the National Board of the Y.W.C.A. and Mr. Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

A written invitation was extended to the Federation by Mrs. Lynch of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Newark, and the clubs of Essex County to hold the next convention in Newark. Mrs. Lottie Cooper, East Orange, secretary of the Nominating committee, reported the re-election of present officers. Convention was adjourned.

Following adjournment a group from the convention visited our soldiers at Camp Dix.



The Fourth Convention of the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was held at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Newark, July 24 and 25, 1919. Reverend Florence Randolph, president, presided. Mr. William Ashby, Executive Secretary of the New Jersey Urban League, was introduced at the afternoon session on the 24th and spoke eloquently about injustices being done the race as demonstrated in the recent riots in Washington, Chicago, New York and other cities, and our need for defending our rights. An informal discussion followed on "How Shall We Best Demand Our Rights", led by Mrs. Lawton of New York and participated in by Mrs. Travis, Orange; Mrs. Douglas, Newark; Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Alice Byrd of Jersey City. At the evening session Counselor Oliver Randolph extended welcome on behalf of Newark organizations; he spoke in favor of women suffrage and expressed the hope that it would become law.

The President read a communication from Mayor Gillen of Newark, expressing pleasure in receiving the special invitation to our convention and accepting the same.

Mrs. Helen Irving of the Industrial Department, U. S. Labor Board, spoke enthusiastically of the work of our women in the war effort and emphasized the fact that they had made good. Miss Eva D. Bowles,

National Y.W.C.A. Executive Secretary, spoke particularly of the work of our women in the Red Cross, Motor Corps Service, canteens and hostess houses.

The roll call for election gave eighty as the voting strength of the convention. The election was by ballot. Those elected were:

<i>President</i>	Reverend Florence Randolph
<i>Vice President at Large</i>	Mrs. Sarah E. Collins, Trenton
<i>First Vice President</i> .....	Mrs. Ida Hart
<i>Second Vice President</i>	Mrs. Maud Murray
<i>Third Vice President</i>	Mrs. J. D. Lynch
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Mrs. Carmen Steele Poyas
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Mrs. Bertha Oliver
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	Mrs. Daisy Walker
<i>Treasurer</i> .. . . .	Mrs. Ella Rice
<i>Organizers</i> . . . . .	Mrs. Ida E. Brown
	Mrs. Sarah Greer
<i>Chaplain</i> .....	Mrs. Esther Yates
<i>Chairman, Executive Board</i>	Mrs. Musette B. Gregory

The President appointed Mrs. E. R. P. Berry, State Lecturer and the following committee on Resolutions: Mrs. Emma Wormley, Mrs. Sarah E. Collins, Mrs. Armita H. Douglas, Mrs. Ida Hart, Mrs. Alice Byrd, Mrs. Maud Murray and Mrs. Musette B. Gregory.

Listed among the speakers were Mrs. A. S. Reed, community worker, Utopia Neighborhood House, New York City. She made an appeal for more interest in clinics for babies.

Doctor Byrd of Jersey City, secretary of the Federation of Colored Organizations, made an eloquent plea for the defense fund being collected for a colored girl in Washington, D. C. Sixty-five dollars was contributed by those present. A collection was also taken up for the Good Samaritan Orphanage of Newark.

Speakers at the evening session were Mrs. Ruth Bennett, president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She expressed surprise and pleasure at the growth of the New Jersey Federation in so short a period. Mrs. Cecelia Cabiness Saunders of the Harlem Y.W.C.A. emphasized the necessity of making our ideals practical. Miss Mary White Ovington of the N.A.A.C.P. deplored the action of the press in inciting riots by publishing misstatements of fact. Twenty-five clubs pledged one dollar each to the Association. The report of the president,

Reverend Florence Randolph, was enthusiastically received and was ordered to be printed in toto with the minutes of the session.

On behalf of the federated clubs an engraved locket was presented to Reverend Randolph by Mesdames Julia Keith and Sadie Ellsworth.

The convention adjourned to meet in Jersey City in 1920.



The Junior Federation was organized in Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, in 1925 by Mrs. Armita H. Douglas, chairman of the Executive Board. The group was composed of girls between the ages of eight and twenty-five years. Mrs. Douglas was cognizant of the necessity and importance of developing the talents of this age group and encouraging them to higher ideals and standards in preparation for future leadership.

The "What I Can Club", under the direction of Mrs. Maggie C. Beckett, was hostess for the meeting. Mrs. Beckett became the first advisor to the N. J. State Federation of Colored Girls, usually referred to as the "Junior Federation".

The Federation was incorporated in this year of 1925.

"The New Jersey State Federation News" was first published in 1927. Mrs. Alice B. Arrington, Orange, was Editor. This was the official news organ of the Federation and was regretfully discontinued sometime later because of lack of funds. Its publication was resumed, however, by Mrs. James H. Beckett during her administration, only to be discontinued a second time. An official organization mouth-piece is definitely needed and should be published in the interest of the Federation.



The organization had now reached a position of permanence. The New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was firmly established. Reverend Florence Randolph having continued her leadership as president for twelve years, refused to accept renomination in 1927 and Mrs. Armita H. Douglas, wife of Attorney George A. Douglas, was chosen as the second president of the Federation.

By this time the Women's Christian Temperance Unions had withdrawn from the Federation to become associated with the National WCTU. Many of the Missionary Societies had also withdrawn their membership and had become part of their own national organization, reduc-

ing the number of clubs in the Federation to forty-eight at the time Mrs. Douglas became president.

Mrs. Douglas remained in office as president for six years. In the fifth year of her administration, at her suggestion, it was decided to hold biennial elections, the office of president to be limited to two terms (four years) in succession.

At the close of Mrs. Douglas' administration, the Club Directory listed sixty-seven clubs enrolled in the Federation and eleven in the junior department.



## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs are:

To "Work and Serve the Hour" in helping to solve the many problems confronting the race.

To help youth interpret spiritual values that will enable the young people to develop their own ideals and standards and express themselves in such ways as will contribute to their material improvement and prepare them for assuming increasing future responsibilities.

To build a bigger and better Federation by stimulating local and state interests, recognizing the aims and ideals of the Federation to the end that the organization may be more effective in its representation of the women of our group within the state, and "In the spirit of Christ by personal contact and sympathy" 'Lift as We Climb'".

## POLICY

The New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs is a non-partisan organization and has consistently followed this policy. Individual members, however, are encouraged to work within their political parties for the candidates of their choice. The Federation takes action only when pertinent issues arise which might affect its racial group.

## MEMBERSHIP

All women's clubs or groups of ten or more women working together for community welfare, social service, health or with religious or educational objectives are eligible for membership in the New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, and are invited to affiliate with the organization as active members. No purely social clubs or groups are accepted.

## PROGRAM

The Federation has a five point program. It presents a challenge not only to the membership, but to every individual residing within the state. Its five points embrace the crucial needs of every individual and family, viz: Employment, Housing, Health, Education and Legislation.



## DOWN MEMORY LANE

### "OF THEE WE SING"

#### *We Remember . . .*

The luncheon honoring Mary McLeod Bethune, president of the National Association of Colored Women at 13th Avenue Presbyterian Church, Newark.

Mrs. Sallie W. Stewart's visit to our Federation during her administration, and the luncheon in her honor at Westfield Country Club, August, 1929. She was house guest of Mrs. Elizabeth Walker of Paterson, our financial secretary.

The demonstration of voting machines arranged by the dynamic Henrietta Johnson of Orange. This was done to familiarize the club women with the use of the machines before they were introduced into our counties at election time. Mrs. Lenora Willett served as demonstrator.

Our enthusiastic approval of the "Federation Cook Book", compiled and published by Mrs. Mame (Cook) Cisco, then chairman of the Ways and Means committee.

In 1928 Mrs. Virginia Williams and Mrs. Anna Barnes of the Fort-nightly Club, Paterson, receiving the first medal for raising \$198.20, the highest amount for Ways and Means. This club had made contributions amounting to \$845.00 that year, viz: \$100.00 to the YWCA building fund, \$200.00 to the NAACP, \$200.00 to local hospitals and \$300.00 for a music scholarship to a local student. Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, our financial secretary, was club president.

Our enthusiastic war work experiences during the first World War. Red Cross work, knitting bees, victory gardens, the player-piano we helped purchase for Camp Dix, the jolly trips made there and the two one-thousand dollar war bonds we added to our record.



Our visits to Miss Violet Johnson's "Home Away From Home" for working girls, located in Summit, where a working girl away from home was welcome with or without money.

Mrs A. L. Brazley's heart-warming devotion to the "girls" of the Junior Department.

The Efficiency Committee and the Reorganization Plan in 1929.

The initiation in 1930 of "Federation Day", to be celebrated the third Sunday in May of each year.

The indomitable Molly G. Langford of Red Bank who established the first state scholarships in music. Her musicales will long be remembered.

Our day at the New York World's Fair, August 19, 1939 when the "Pageant of Spirituals" was presented by the Federation with Mrs. Irene Palmer, program chairman, assisted by Mrs. Mabel Robinson of Madison. The fifty-voice Dunbar chorus of Rahway, directed by Mr. Albert Tillery, and fifty girls, secured mainly by Mrs. Maggie C. Beckett for the tableaux, made up the cast of one hundred in the pageant. Mrs. Omega V. Mason, newly elected president, spoke on "The Federation of Tomorrow". It was a thrilling experience and a glorious occasion. (One wonders what happened to the gorgeous photographs of the pageant sent to us by the World's Fair Committee).

Atlantic City as the "Convention City" and Mrs. Naomi Young Hatcher as a dependable and tireless worker. The clubs of this district (Southeast) entertained the state convention four times beginning in 1923. The State Federation was hostess to the NACW in 1950, the local clubs playing the major part in the management and entertainment.

Our work with the Migrant Commission and our efforts toward the new State Constitution eliminating separate schools in New Jersey and integrating the National Guard.

Our cooperation with other organizations in the successful campaign for a minimum wage law.

The recognition of a Revolutionary War hero by the state of New Jersey. Through the efforts of Mrs. Ella Barksdale Brown of Jersey City, March 5th was designated as "Crispus Attucks' Day".

Our protest to the President of the United States and to the Governor of New Jersey relative to the segregation of Negro soldiers at Camp Dix during the second World War.

Our pride in our life membership in the NAACP and in the Memor-

ial and African scholarships which we have continued through the years.

Our enthusiastic response to the appeal of Doctor L. N. Mzimba for clothing for the natives of South Africa. "Bundles for Africa" became a slogan.

Our interest in the Pascoe and Armstrong Acts (1946-48) for state financial aid to education, the appointment of a State School Aid Commission (1950) and the White House Conferences on education.

Our happiness in the dedication of the stately entrance gate to the Bordentown Training School campus, for which we contributed.

Our interest in having "A Pictorial History of the Negro in America" by Langston Hughes and Milton Meltzer placed in elementary school libraries.

How pleased we were to have two elected officers in the NACW, the Reverend Florence Randolph, D. D., former Chaplain, and later, Mrs. Omega V. Mason, chairman of the Executive Board. Our pleasure in the election of Mazie Sloan (now Mrs. Saunders) as president of the National Association of Colored Girls.

These are only a few of the memories, we cherish as blessings — as our thoughts meander 'Down Memory Lane'.



## A LOOK-SEE AT HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR CLUBS

### SOUTHWEST, MRS. THELMA ENGLETON, *Regional President*

The Colored Women's Club of Salem maintained for many years a well equipped playground and sponsored the first community wide X-Ray project in Salem. It also sponsored several girl scout troops. The club gives an annual dinner honoring the "Golden Agers" in the community and makes yearly visits to the Salem County Home, taking gifts for all inmates. As a part of its cultural program, it has made several group pilgrimages to historic places, visiting Hyde Park, West Point, Mt. Vernon, Niagara Falls and Washington, D. C. It entertains the Fresh Air Children each year and celebrates Negro History Week and Chrispus Attucks' Day.

The Mary H. Thomas Day Nursery is operated by the Camden Colored Women's Civic Club. This is a group of dynamic women who give a scholarship to a student at the New England Conservatory of Music

and sponsor a girl scout troop in addition to other civic interests such as the Red Cross, Community Chest and the NAACP campaigns.

The principal project of the Women's Auxiliary to the South Jersey Medical Association has been the establishment of a five hundred dollar life membership in the NAACP.

The Penn-Pedrick Club has an outstanding inter-racial program each year and also takes an active interest in the Salem County Home for the Aged.

The Women's Success Club of Woodbury likes to travel. Its annual educational bus trips have taken the members to Washington, D. C., Niagara Falls, Montreal, Canada, and they are planning to visit the New England states this year -- 1957. This club also does welfare work in the community. It sponsors a girl scout troop, holds an annual bazaar to raise funds for a community club house and gives an award of twenty-five dollars to the outstanding high school graduate in the home economics department.

The Alice Felt Club of Gouldtown has an unusual and important project, the maintenance of the Gouldtown Cemetery.

The Mary Waring Club of Millville holds an annual Crispus Attucks' celebration on March 5, and contributes useful articles to the local hospital.

These are only a few of the contributions made by the clubs of the Southwest district.

#### WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT, MRS. EMMA EPPS, *Regional President*

The Fat-Ho-Cha club of Trenton donated \$200.00 to the Mercer Hospital building fund, which enabled the hospital to have two additional dressing room units. These rooms will be inscribed with the club's name.

For the fourth year, the club is sponsoring a young woman of much promise at the Trenton Conservatory of Music. The club has aided the Red Cross in the mobile X-Ray Van once a week for one month, registering over one thousand people and has also supported the Mercer County Safety Council in its door-to-door safety campaign, securing two hundred signees.

The West End Women's Club of Moorestown has adopted for its main project Female Ward #1 of the Ancora Mental Hospital. Once a month the members visit the hospital taking clothing, candies and fruit.

Subscriptions to magazines and newspapers are also contributed. In addition the club sponsors an annual Youth Guidance program at the Community Center and assists a senior student nurse.

The Tri-Borough Women's Improvement League of Riverton, lives up to its name by aiding such charities as Mrs. Hardy's Nursery School, Zurbrigg Memorial Hospital, Infantile Paralysis Foundation and the Tri-Borough Youth Fund.

The pet project of the Civic and Charity Welfare League of Trenton is the Johnstone Research Center at Bordentown, acquainting the public with the importance of the institution for retarded children. Its coffee-hour discussions are beneficial to the audience as well as financially helpful to the institution.

The Friendship club of Princeton has presented two famous artists in recitals: Todd Duncan, baritone, at McCarter Theatre in 1942 and our beloved Marian Anderson, contralto, in 1954 and 1957. At the Todd Duncan recital forty soldiers from Camp Dix were special guests. Forty lovely young women from the "Live Y" club of the YWCA acted as special hostesses for the soldiers. The three recitals were eminently successful financially as well as artistically.

This club aided worthy students financially in sums from five to three hundred dollars. It helped the Neuro-psychiatric Institute by giving Vesper programs and making hospital gowns. It also furnished Christmas gifts for the patients of Princeton hospital, donated a special bed for the children and helped toward the purchase of a television set.

The Friendship Club also paid for the building of a church in Cameroun, West Africa, which is named "Friendship Chapel".

The Metro-Civic Club works primarily with children. Its annual children's outing at an amusement park in Philadelphia is looked forward to each year enthusiastically. The annual panel discussion on the five point Federation program held at Carver Center is another highlight in the activities of the Metro-Civic Club.

#### **NORTHEAST DISTRICT, MRS. MILDRED BROOKS, *Regional President***

The Friendly Big Sisters of Jersey City celebrate their thirtieth anniversary in February, 1957. Their main project has been raising funds for the "Door of Hope", a Salvation Army Home for unmarried mothers regardless of race, color or creed.

Two of the remaining charter members of the New Jersey State

Federation of Colored Women's Clubs are also charter members of the Friendly Big Sisters, namely Mrs. Minnie Carpenter and Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas.

The Clover Leaf and the Mary B. Talbert clubs of Ridgewood, contribute annually to the "Order of the Lamp", scholarship organization for high school graduates desiring to attend college. The Mary B. Talbert Club is the only club in the federation that owns and maintains its own club house. It is "open to all clubs".

The Young Women's Guild of Paterson has as its project the "Ruth Mason Day Nursery". The members have donated one hundred hours of service, raised funds and have made themselves generally helpful.

The clubs of this district are interested in all community activities. They help in the fund raising campaigns of the Red Cross, NAACP, Cancer, Heart and Polio drives. They also sponsor girl scout troops, give scholarships and help in the local hospital drives thus carrying out the motto "Work and Serve the Hour".

#### NORTHWEST DISTRICT, MRS. ESTELLE MORRIS, *Regional President*

The Lit-Muse club of Newark has a unique project. It collects quilting pieces and old nylon and silk stockings. These are taken to Greystone Park, an institution for the mentally ill and are made into rugs and quilts by the inmates in the occupational therapy classes. The club also takes an active interest in the Old Folks Home in Montclair.

The Ladies' Union and the Young Women's League of Bethany Baptist Church, Newark, center their interest primarily within the church. The Young Women's League sponsors an annual Women's Day program of state-wide interest, at which it presents such nationally known speakers as Dr. Margaret Just Butcher of Howard University and Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines, president of the National Association of Colored Women. It also successfully presented the famous contralto, Marian Anderson, in recital at the Mosque Theatre in Newark.

The Phillis Wheatley Literary Club, Newark, was organized in 1910. It has included in its programs the study of the heritage of the Negro in literature and art. It became a member of the N. J. State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs in 1917 and added certain philanthropic interests in keeping with the purposes of the federation. It is now working with certain phases of the federation's five point program. The Club's program has included several cultural exhibits:

- 1941 At the Newark Public Library in celebration of its thirtieth anniversary, the club presented a survey of its activities made up of club records, photographs, programs and papers read by club members over the thirty year period. Also exhibited were paintings, and examples of sculpture by twenty-four nationally known Negro artists and three outstanding sculptors, Richmond Barthe, Sargeant Johnson and Augusta Savage.
- 1951 At the Newark Public Library, an exhibit entitled "The First Two Hundred Years of Negro Literature", and at the Orange Free Public Library paintings and book illustrations by outstanding Negro artists and illustrators.

- 1953 Orange Free Public Library, an exhibit of African art. The Phillis Wheatley Literary Club has pleasant recollections of the project worked out with members of the Newark Library staff on "The Consumer Goes Shopping", which was repeated at the state convention at Bordentown. It remembers with pleasure the convenience of the Phillis Wheatley Literary Club bookshelf in the Reading room of the Library.

Recently the club presented a panel discussion on "The Bible As Literature" at two Newark churches. It was of inter-racial nature. These affairs have been of community-wide interest.

The Colored Women's Welfare Council of Belleville has a summer camp project for which it holds a Tag Day each spring. Nine to fifteen children are given a camp vacation each summer. The club also furnishes milk for children of families unable to pay for it. Its work has been thorough and constant for more than twenty years.

The Just-a-Mere Literary Club awards a scholarship each spring to the outstanding student in high school regardless of race. It also contributes records of Negro music and books by Negro authors to the local library.

The Women's Service League of Roselle awards a scholarship to the senior student graduating with a general average of eighty-five per cent or more.

The Contributory Club of East Orange contributes yearly to the East Orange Hospital and donates fifty dollars or more each year to the Cerebral Palsy fund. It holds an annual dinner on March 5, commemorating Crispus Attucks, the Revolutionary War hero, and celebrates Federation Day the third Sunday in May of each year.

The Evergreen Twig Club of Plainfield concentrates on hospital service, making bandages, supplying volunteer workers and being generally helpful.

The Essex County Civic Club, a non-partisan group, was organized to study and promote programs -- educational and social -- that would be helpful in developing good will and better citizenship under the Federation's five-point program plan.

A few highlights: The Annual Youth Forum "Let's Talk With Youth" has been presented for the third year and has proved far-reaching in interest and participation. The last panel included an assistant superintendent of schools, a director of Youth Consultation Service, a recreational director, a minister and an industrial secretary of the Urban League.

The club sponsored a Negro History and Crispus Attucks' Day program, and programs on Housing, Employment, Health and Welfare. Some important services rendered by this group included the Friendly Visitors' visits to the Essex County Parental Home where they presented interesting programs followed by recreation and the serving of refreshments. The youth look forward with keen interest to these visits. The same idea is carried out at the East Orange Veterans' Hospital. In addition they make many contributions of service and money to the Red Cross, NAACP Freedom Fund, Newark United Nations' Committee, National Conference of Christians and Jews for Human Relations and to many other welfare organizations.

It is to be regretted that more highlights of club activities cannot be included, but time -- space -- costs make it imperative to stop HERE and NOW -- SELAH!!



EXCERPTS from the address of Reverend Florence Randolph, D. D., president of the N. J. State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, delivered at the close of convention held at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Newark, July 25, 1919:

"One writer has said 'The only reconstruction worthwhile is the reconstruction of thought, because permanent reforms grow out of a change in the mind. And another, 'The challenge, therefore, to American Democracy is to include in the great program of liberty righteousness and democracy, 12,000,000 American Negroes.

"It is in the power of American white women to make America the safest and best country in the world, to make her in deed and in truth as well as in name, the land of the free and the home of the brave, because the sentiment-making power which really controls the people of all civilized Christian countries is vested in the womanhood of the country.

"As chairman of the religious department of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, I said to them in my address: "This day will call for cool, wise, deliberate leadership; leaders who are willing to serve the race rather than selfish ambition; for statesmen willing to fight and die if needs be for a principle, rather than mere politicians bent upon their own personal aggrandizement at the expense of the public good.

"Remember we shall get nothing in this country, or I might say the world, unless we demand it. Let us cease to gather in small groups and complain about American discrimination -- but rather let us become strongly organized and prepare ourselves for real aggressive work, then demand our rights in the only sensible way -- by organized effort.

"If we are simply going to meet year after year and then go home and take it easy until the next convention, all the injustices we now suffer and the barbarism of the white south will continue. But if each would be willing to sacrifice some of her time, and a little money, with much prayer, we are sure to win.

"It should be the aim of every club in this federation to organize at least one Civic club in its respective town, undenominational and free from church obligations if we expect to do any big things for the race in our state.

"Let us not lose hope, but let us begin as it were anew from this meeting, and remember, as one said:

"Every day is a fresh beginning

Every morn is the world made new".